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MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, July 31, 2017
7:00 PM

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: 8-21-2017

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Jim Williams in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Mark Paolillo and Adam Dash were present. Interim Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall was also present.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

[There were none.]

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY CONSENT

National Grid Utility Petition Taylor Road
National Grid Utility Petition Oliver Road
National Grid Utility Petition Marsh Street and Hough Road

Ms. Marshall confirmed that all departments have signed off on the petitions indicated above. She referenced the DPW memo concerning the street opening applications; these applications have been coordinated with the Office of Community Development.

Mr. Michael Gerling, of National Grid, appeared before the Board to discuss the three petitions. Mr. Gerling explained that the petitions will extend the gas main in order to provide new gas service to residents in the neighborhood. Mr. Gerling answered brief questions from the Board, specifically from Selectman Dash, concerning the Taylor Road petition and its impact on the local farm stand. Mr. Gerling noted that accommodations could be made concerning the Taylor Road work.

The Board moved: To approve the petition for 75 Taylor Road, conditional that it is not done on Tuesday or Saturday and that the work be done in the morning hours.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To approve the petition for 75 Oliver Road.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To approve the petition for 383 Marsh Street and 14 Hough Road.

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The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

TC Systems d/b/a AT&T Utility Petition Trapelo Road

Mr. Ryan Martin, of AT&T, appeared before the Board to discuss the AT&T Utility Petition for 125 Trapelo Road. Mr. Martin explained that this is for the installation of a fiber-optic cable for the Trapelo Road location. He noted that AT&T has been in touch with the DPW as well as the DOT.

Ms. Marshall provided some additional information on this request. The Board asked brief questions concerning this petition. It was noted that the sidewalks were recently completed.

The Board moved: To approve the TC Systems (AT&T Utility) Petition for the sidewalk on 125 Trapelo Road, as outlined in the memo.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) Parking Restriction Recommendations

Mr. Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development, appeared before the Board to discuss three parking recommendations from the TAC; he informed the Board that he is representing the TAC in presenting these recommendations (to the Board).

Concord Avenue near Memorial Library

Mr. Clancy explained that spaces near the Library are functioning as all-day parking at the moment. The proposed four-hour restriction will serve the businesses and the Library in allowing for patrons to park there. Mr. Clancy touched on the topic of Police enforcement.

The Board briefly discussed this recommendation.

The Board moved: To approve the proposed parking restriction for Concord Avenue near the Library, for 5-6 spaces, as indicated.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Sharpe Road near Burbank School

Chair Williams outlined the specifics of this recommendation. Mr. Clancy explained this request, noting that the time restrictions impact the curve near Burbank. He also explained the Monday-through-Friday restrictions on Sharpe Road. The plan will make Sharpe Road more easily accessible for the school busses. It will also help make School Street safer for pedestrians.

The Board briefly discussed this recommendation.

Selectman Dash noted that the different times where parking is going to be prohibited in different parts of the street could be confusing to people. There was some confusion, he said, with the shared loading zone and parking spaces in Belmont Center. Chair Williams suggested

having the “no parking” times all be the same. Mr. Clancy thought that the signage would work, as there are some parking restrictions on the street already, and that education of parents and school patrons by School Administration will happen to prevent confusion.

The Board moved: To approve the proposed parking restriction for Sharpe Road near Burbank School.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Turn Restriction – Prospect Street to Ernest Road

Chair Williams outlined the specifics of this recommendation. Mr. Clancy explained the placement of a stop sign as well as the turn restriction. The signs, he noted, have actually been up for several months.

The Board briefly discussed this recommendation. Mr. Clancy explained that the Police do not feel they have the right to enforce the signage unless the Board has approved the traffic signs. He added that residents seem content with the signage.

Mr. Clancy added that there are other sign restrictions in place that the Board has not approved.

Ms. Eileen Petersen, a resident residing on Marsh Street, stated that the Marsh and Winter Street corner is a place of frequent car accidents. Mr. Clancy noted that there is a beacon at the intersection. Several intersections in this area will be studied, he said, and the study could be broadened to include Marsh and Winter Streets. He explained that certain warrants have to be met before a traffic signal can be placed.

The Board moved: To approve the installation of parking restrictions for Prospect Street and Claremont Road and on Ernest Road.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Williams requested that Mr. Clancy follow up with the Board on the findings of the studies of various dangerous intersections.

Discussion on Traffic Markings in Belmont Center

Mr. Clancy remained before the Board to discuss traffic markings in Belmont Center. He explained that, on August 2, the vendor will come to refresh the markings (striping). Selectman Dash explained that the markings have already faded. Mr. Clancy provided some background information on street markings, noting that the contractor had confirmed the problem was a “bad batch of material”. The vendor will be replacing the markings in Belmont and two other communities, as well.

Mr. Clancy explained the process by which the markings will be replaced on Wednesday evening.

Approval of 25 MPH Thickly Settled Speed Limit

Mr. Clancy remained before the Board to discuss the 25 MPH thickly settled speed limit. Chair Williams noted that Town Meeting approved this in May and Mr. Clancy explained that the Board now needs to vote to implement it. Mr. Clancy noted the process by which signage will go up concerning the 25 MPH speed limit. The new law will be enforceable once the signs are up.

The Board moved: To adopt and implement the Mass. General Law Chapter 17-C which concerns the 25 MPH thickly settled speed limit.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Committee Appointments, Discussion and Possible Vote on Committee Appointment Policy

Ms. Marshall stated that the Committee Chairs have reviewed the Committee Appointment Procedure draft. Selectman Dash explained the change to the draft document, using the word “may” instead of “shall” on page 3. This new appointment policy, he explained, is modeled after Weston’s appointment policy. The effective date of the policy change will be January 1, 2018. He explained some of the changes going forward.

The Board moved: To approve the Committee Appointment Policy, with an effective date of January 1, 2018.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Planning Board (PB) Update – Three Issues

Ms. Liz Allison, Planning Board Chair, appeared before the Board to discuss several issues. She noted that she is present to answer questions about the topics.

Waverley Square

The Board began with the option for locating the Town Library in Waverley Square. Selectman Dash raised a concern about whether the Planning Board should meet with the Board of Library Trustees and sort out the particulars of the project before coming to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Paolillo noted that the Library placement in Waverly Square is merely an idea, not an official proposal. PB Chair Allison agreed and noted that the PB has not even voted on this issue. She noted that she could present this as an idea but not an official position of the PB until a vote had taken place.

Chair Williams stated that he has heard concerns about the order of events from a number of citizens, as well.

Ms. Kathy Keohane, Chair of the Library Trustees, approached the table to discuss the process by which this idea came forward. She said the process is indeed backwards. She agreed that a conversation with the Trustees should occur before there is a presentation to the community.

PB Chair Allison stated that the next step is for the PB to vote. Selectman Dash again suggested

that the PB meet with the Library Trustees before voting on the issue at their Planning Board meeting. PB Chair Allison said this issue is on the agenda for the PB meeting, tomorrow evening, although it is not the first agenda item. PB Chair Allison asked when the next meeting of the Library Trustees would be held and committed to attending that meeting.

Ms. Keohane explained that the Trustees have been, for many months, engaging in a transparent process concerning the next steps for the Library.

Proposed State Zoning Changes

PB Chair Allison then summarized state zoning changes proposed in the last legislative session, and explained that a new version will be introduced in the 2017-18 legislative session. These changes will impact “Density and other key Provisions”. She suggested that the Board meet with the Planning Board as well as with Belmont’s state legislators – perhaps in late September.

Planning Board (PB) Appointments

PB Chair Allison summarized Ms. Fiacco’s skills and contributions to the Planning Board. She stated that the Planning Board requires special skill sets, e.g., experience in reading building plans, analyzing the economic impacts of zoning changes and development projects and general legal background.

The Board discussed the potential appointees to this Board, specifically the re-appointment and term length of current PB member Manjikian from associate member to full member and new appointment to associate member

The Board opted to not make any PB appointments at this time. More information will be sought on the terms of various members.

Approval of a Request from the Cushing Village Merchants Association to hold their annual event on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 8 am – 6 pm

Mr. Mary Westcott, of the Cushing Village Merchants Association, appeared before the Board to discuss the Cushing Village Merchants Association’s request concerning their annual event, details noted above. Ms. Westcott explained that this event will be held in September. Common Street – from Trapelo Road to Palfrey Road – will need to be closed. She also requested an additional road closing near 9 Cushing Ave.

However, Yom Kippur is September 30 this year. She asked about the process by which the date could be changed. She noted that she has received approvals from all the relevant departments. Ms. Marshall explained that the departments would need to know the date-change.

After discussing potential new dates, the Board opted to re-visit this issue – specifically, the new date – when it meets again on August 7.

Discussion on Verizon Cable Contract

Mr. Mark Carthy, Cable Television Advisory Committee, appeared before the Board to discuss the Verizon license renewal. The contract, he said, is ready for the Board to sign. Ms. Marshall explained the change (concerning capital) to the contract. She noted that the Glenn Road issue is being looked into. She also highlighted the specific contract changes, e.g, the date of contract, payment dates, etc.

The Board thanked the Cable Television Advisory Committee for their hard work.

The Board moved: To approve the Verizon Cable License Contract for a term of 5 years, effective today July 31, 2017

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Vote to Accept Donation from Direct Energy Solar

Mr. Gerry Boyle, Facilities Manager, appeared before the Board to discuss the donation from Direct Energy Solar. He noted that the Board recently accepted a \$50K gift for 40 solar panels to be installed at the Chenery Middle School. However, the company that was to install the panels will no longer be doing that type of work. The new gift of \$29,000 is offered by Direct Energy Solar in lieu of the solar array and installation.

The Board discussed issues relating to the \$29K gift and whether it could be used for solar panel installation. Ms. Marshall suggested that the gift be accepted by the Board specifically for energy conservation measures to be determined at a later date.

The Board moved: To accept the \$29K from Direct Energy Solar, for energy conservation measures and solar panel array options would be considered in the alternatives.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Marshall reported on the following items:

- **MBTA Control Board Meeting:** Today the MBTA Control Board met. Jeffery Wheeler attended for the Town to observe the discussion of an agenda item which included the 30-day review for the placement of a 75 foot Wi-Fi tower behind 33-39 Thayer Road to improve MBTA Wi-Fi. The review period was extended until August 14. The Board discussed issues relating to the impact of this Wi-Fi tower on the neighborhood. Chair Williams suggested that a letter be sent objecting to the proposed tower.

Committee Liaison Reports / Other

Major Capital Projects Working Group (MCPWG) Update

Selectman Paolillo identified the MCPWG members. He noted that several projects have been looked at including: BHS, DPW, Police, Library, and the Skating Rink. The High School

project is moving forward. Short-term solutions are being explored for immediate needs at the Police Station and Department of Public Works and a consultant was hired to look at potential short-term options to allow further discussion of longer term solutions.

There will be a presentation made to Town Meeting in the fall, which will outline a way forward on these projects, including potential funding options and other sites that may be required in analysis of long term resolution for Library, Department of Public Works, Police, former incinerator site and Community Path.

Chair Williams asked if current buildings are being properly maintained. Selectman Paolillo replied that yes – to the extent that there is funding. And, while the maintenance budget has been increased, not enough funding has been made available. This issue will be looked into further.

The Board briefly discussed these projects.

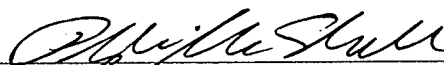
Recreational Marijuana

Chair Williams asked if Belmont will have marijuana dispensaries. Ms. Marshall explained the potential next steps. He noted that the taxes charged on the sale of marijuana could be an additional source of revenue for the town. Selectman Dash suggested that Town Counsel weigh in on this matter.

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, August 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. – Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.


Ms. Phyllis Marshall, Interim Town Administrator

